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IX. ABSTRACT

A digital electrical computer apparatus located at an order center is used to control shipping a product from a remotely located distribution center. A method includes the steps of: producing output electrical signals representing a packing list for an order of a product by causing an ordering apparatus located at an order center to change input digital electrical signals into the output digital electrical signals, the ordering apparatus including a digital electrical computer having a processor, the processor electrically connected to a memory device for storing and retrieving machine-readable signals in the memory device, to an input device for receiving input data and converting the input data into the input electrical signals, and to an output device for receiving the output electrical signals, and wherein the processor is controlled by a computer program to implement the step of producing; assigning shipping information signals to the order with a digital electrical computer shipping apparatus; linking, by digital communication, the signals representing the packing list with the shipping information signals; transmitting signals representing the packing list and the shipping information signals to, and receiving the signals representing the packing list and the shipping information signals at, a printer device at a distribution center located remotely from the order center and from the digital electrical computer shipping apparatus; printing the packing list and a shipping label at the printer device at the distribution center; and shipping the product, along with the shipping label, from the distribution center.